



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692



St Bernard's Parish

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBEIT
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBEIT ROAD 3341

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD-YEAR A

21st May 2023

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Alex Clemente
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Wilford Urmaza and Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Mon 9am-12noon Tue 9am-4pm
Wed 9am-5.30pm & Thu-Fri 9am-4pm
Email: parishsecretary83@gmail.com
Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

St Anthony's School **Principal:** Damien Schuster
Wilson Road, Melton South 3338
Phone: 8099 7800

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

St Lawrence of Brindisi School **Principal:** Bill Hill
31 Waterway Boulevard, Weir Views, 3338
Phone: 8099 6699

Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Tue 9.00am-11.30am Wed & Thu 9.00am-1.00pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au
Facebook link:
<https://www.facebook.com/stbernardsbacchusmarsh>

St Bernard's School **Principal:** Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith
19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
Phone: (03) 5366 5800
Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Catholic College- Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 / Bridge Rd, Cobblebank 3338 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

In the case of urgent situations-sickness etc. please call 0422 869 646

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza,
Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rob Brennan OLHC	0430 312 684
Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Annette Marum	0417 525 617
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and
Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator/Officer: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0409 110 259 & Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) Evana Miesen & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Tuesday 6.00pm. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

Judy Johnson's Office Hours 9.00am-1.00pm Monday-Wednesday

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 22/5/2023-28/05/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 22/5	6.30pm
Tuesday 23/5	9.30am
Week 10 of the St Anthony's Novena	6.15pm
Followed by Mass	6.30pm
Wednesday 24 /5	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 25/5	9.30am
Friday 26/5	9.30am

Rosary at 9.00am before 9.30am morning masses

Sunday Masses

Saturday 27/5	5.00pm
Sunday 28/5	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.
No Confession on Monday.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 22/05/2023-28/05/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 22/5	No Mass
Tuesday 23/5	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 24/5	Mary Help of Christians 9.30am
Thursday 25/5	7.30am
Friday 26/5	7.30am
Saturday 27/5	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 27/5	6.30pm
Sunday 28/5	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Every Monday-Rosary and Adoration 7pm-8pm in the church.

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES

VIGIL	27/5	5.00pm
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PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

REFLECTION THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD– Mary Fermio rsj

There can be many occasions in our lives when we find it hard to let go – first day at school, when a loved one dies, to take up residence in Aged Care, a child leaves to backpack overseas...and so on.

The Apostles must have found it hard to let Jesus go, must have felt lost, fearful, puzzled as to the future. For several weeks they had relished his presence, his words and strength. But the task he gave them: Go! And make disciples of all nations. WOW! That must have been overwhelming. But Jesus assures them. "Don't worry! I am with you always – yes even to the end of time!" Jesus trusted them. They now have to learn to trust him. They have to get used to him being with them in a different way.

Our own Baptism and Confirmation is a commission by Jesus to GO! – to step out on our own mission, to speak up, to follow the teachings of Jesus, remembering his words:

"I am with you always, even to the end of time!"

If we trust him, like the Apostles, we can do wonders through prayer and friendship.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers.

COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday 3 June 2023, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne.

Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate Ph. 03 9412 3357 / Email diaconate@cam.org.au

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OUR CHURCH AND FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA -ALL WELCOME

Do you know that this year our Parish turns 40! How much have we grown over 4 decades. Surely many of you can attest to that.

To celebrate our growth as a Parish, the Mission Team is organizing the combined celebration of the 40th Anniversary of St Anthony's Parish and St Anthony's Feast Day from 3 to 11 June 2023. There will also be a special Holy Mass on St. Anthony's Feast Day on 13 June 2023. See flyer for more details, please collect the flyer from the foyer.

During the feast week, St. Anthony's bread will be blessed and distributed to parishioners after daily mass. Parishioners are welcomed to contribute St. Anthony's Bread in thanksgiving for blessings received through the intercession of St. Anthony. For those wishing to do so, please place your cash offerings in the box on the sanctuary.

ST ANTHONY'S

ST ANTHONY'S MASQUERADE 40TH BIRTHDAY DINNER DANCE

Saturday 3rd June 2023

Venue: Padua Hall Time: 6.30pm

Price: Adult \$40 Child \$20 (12 under)

2 Course Meal

DJ, Live Entertainment & Prizes



ST ANTHONY'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 11th June 2023

Procession after the 8.30am mass, Chaplet of St Anthony of Padua, followed by the 10.30am Mass.

After the 10.30am Mass we will have a day filled with fellowship, fun, international food fest, live music and games

MEN'S MONTHLY RECOLLECTION-Tuesday 23rd May 2023

A time for prayer, learning, making resolutions and fellowship.

7pm-9pm. Topic: Mary, Mother of God and our Mother: devotion to the Virgin.

PARISH GARDENER

The Parish is looking for a volunteer to help upkeep the gardens around the Church. If you are interested, please contact Godwin on 0425 734 449.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES 2nd MARCH

Minute are available for collection in the foyer.

ST BERNARD'S

CELEBRATING MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FEAST DAY.

Please come and join us in honouring and begging for the intercession of Australia's most powerful patron saint - Mary Help of Christians, on Wednesday 24th May. Mass at 9.30am, beginning with a procession of all children attending, to Mary with flowers and candles. Morning tea held in the Parish centre following Mass.

SAVE THE DATE

We are hosting a fundraiser trivia night in the parish hall on Saturday 22nd July.

Get a team together and join us for a night of fun and games.

Further details to be printed in the newsletter in coming weeks.



Prayer To Our Lady, Help Of Christians

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, how sweet it is to come to your feet imploring your perpetual help.

If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children, how can you, the most loving of all mothers forget me?

Grant then to me, I implore you, your perpetual help in all my necessities, in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations.

I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering.

Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners.

Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life.

Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians, that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven.

By St. John Bosco

[Prayer To Our Lady, Help Of Christians](#)

[- Prayers - Catholic Online](#)

[Feast Day Wednesday 24th May](#)



WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 27th & 28th May

Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator

15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Rhys Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Ann Tennakoon

8.30am: Geoff Sutton

10.30am: George Bonello

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact Lesley at the Parish Office Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Godwin & Coleen

8.30am: Godwin & Lillian

10.30am: Leonia & Lillian

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Moira Ross

10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Colin Remedios

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 27th & 28th May

6.30pm: Maureen Zahra

8.30am: Peter La Franchi

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 27th May

6.30pm: Mary Beaton

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Vincent Barton, Helen De Brincat, John De Brincat, Sam De Brincat, Sr Irene McCormack, Albert Micalleff, Jon Nicotra, Tarcisio Scerri, Alma Smart, Edith Stone & Peduru Wisidagama.

Please pray for the Sick:

David Bonello, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh and all those who have requested our prayers. **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.**

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

David John Barry & Trish Shelly

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Josephine Calleja, Kay Cowman, John Deveney, Isabel Fitzpatrick, Catherine (Carmel) Monaghan, Thomas Monaghan, "Podge" (George) Vallence & Aldo Vescovi.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Carmel Berry, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, George Farrell, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, , Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Colin Taffe, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young and all those who have requested our prayers. **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.**

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love. Amen



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 27th & 28th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Rosabella Tuala

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330
The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Meeting Room 10.30am.
New members most welcome, training provided.
Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' in the Church foyer.
We cannot accept re-packaged food.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

We're here to support City of Melton residents get ahead through access to our foodbank and other community programs. It's never just about the food or the budget help, it's about recognising the beauty that is in the person and bringing it out so they can be their best.
Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.

Amen



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 27th & 28th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am Lyn Shea
10.30am Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Frances McDaid

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

May: Stuart Robertson & Sean Giani

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare number 1800 305 330.

Bacchus Marsh Vinnies Store 164-190 Main Street is in urgent need of donations. All donations gratefully appreciated and can be dropped at the Store 7 days a week. Any enquiries please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the **Moorabool Shire**, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up to \$1500 for things like white goods, furniture and minor car repairs to keep life going.

We are located at [77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@inet.net.au

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Closed on public holidays.

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm
Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM– ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

Dear Parishioners, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have updated their Baptism Preparation Program.

Baptisms will be held at St Anthony's on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month at 11.00am and Baptisms will be held at St Bernard's on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month at 11.00am.

Please go to [St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South](#) click on 'Faith Formation' and then 'Baptism of Infants' for all the information and the application form.

Please contact the Parish Offices if you need any assistance. Thank you.



ADULT PREPARATION Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Alex, Fr Wilford or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1:	Uili & Lagi Maiava	0429 340 404
Group 2:	Gordon & Gladys Clark	0402 021 435
Group 3:	Anthony & Mary Saliba	0418 358 090

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the month 3pm.



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



NEO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[bow during the next line]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen



Lord, we ask you to continue
to be with us as we
' TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL '
together in prayer.
May we open ourselves to you
with a new depth of trust and conviction
in your guiding hand,
so that we may discern our journey
with compassionate and humble hearts
and come to know your Holy Spirit
Moving within and amongst us,
And so be transformed Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 46

Commentator: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS – PENTECOST SUNDAY-

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23



The Holy Eucharist XIII

Eucharistic miracles (4) Three Approved Eucharistic Miracles from the 21st Century

A Eucharistic miracle occurs every day, at every Holy Mass around the world, when the substance of bread and wine is transformed into the substance of Jesus' body and blood.

However, the term "Eucharistic miracle" also refers to the extraordinary empirical signs of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, such as bleeding hosts or the transmutation of a consecrated host into a piece of cardiac muscle tissue.

Some notable Eucharistic miracles happened years and years ago; for example, the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano, Italy, in the eighth century, and the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem, Portugal, in the 13th century (see "The Holy Eucharist XI" in this series).

Others have happened in more recent history, such as the scientifically proven Eucharistic miracles of Buenos Aires in 1992-96. However, there are a handful that have taken place in just the past 20 years. Below are four stories of approved and recent Eucharistic miracles.

ONE Eucharistic Miracle in Sokolka, Poland, 2008

This Eucharistic miracle occurred in Poland in the city of Sokolka.

The miracle took place in 2008 at the church of St Anthony. During morning Mass, a priest dropped a host while distributing Communion. The Host was then put in a small container of water.

The pastor, Fr Stanislaw Gniedziejko, asked the sacristan, Sister Julia Dubowska of the Congregation of the Eucharistic Sisters, to place the container in a safe in the sacristy. After a week, Sister Julia checked on the host. When she opened the safe, she smelled something like unleavened bread and the host had a red blood stain on it.

Immediately, Sister Julia and Fr Gniedziejko told the archbishop of Bialystok, Bishop Edward Ozorowski, about the host. The Bishop had the stained host taken out of the container and placed on a corporal, where it stayed in the tabernacle for three years. During this time, the stained fragment of the host dried out (appearing more like a blood stain or clot) and several studies were commissioned on the host.

www.magiscenter.com

The studies found that the altered fragment of the host is identical to the myocardial (heart) tissue of a person who is nearing death. Additionally, the structure of the muscle fibres and that of the bread are interwoven in a way impossible to produce by human means.

TWO Legnica: A Bleeding Host in Poland, 2013

On Christmas Day 2013, at the Church of Saint Hyacinth in Legnica, Poland, a consecrated host fell on the floor. The host was put into a container with water so that it would dissolve. Instead, it formed red stains.

In February 2014, the host was examined by several research institutes including the Department of Forensic Medicine in Szczecin which stated:

"In the histopathological image, the fragments were found to contain fragmented parts of the cross-striated muscle. It is most similar to heart muscle."

Additionally, and similar to the findings of the Eucharistic miracle of Lanciano, Italy, research found that the tissue had alterations that would appear during great distress.

The bleeding Host in Poland was approved for veneration in April 2016, by Bishop Zbigniew Kiernikowski of Legnica, who said that it "has the hallmarks of a Eucharistic miracle".

THREE Tixtla: Eucharistic Miracle in Mexico, 2006

In October 2006, a parish in the Chilpancingo-Chilapa Diocese of Acapulco, Mexico, held a retreat. During mass, two priests and a religious sister were distributing communion when the religious sister looked at the celebrant with tears in her eyes. The Host that she held had begun to effuse a reddish substance.

To determine the validity of the event, Bishop Alejo Zavala Castro asked Dr Ricardo Castañón Gómez (who researched the Eucharistic miracle in Buenos Aires) and his team to conduct scientific research.

In 2013, the research concluded: "The reddish substance analysed corresponds to blood in which there are haemoglobin and DNA of human origin ... The blood type is AB, similar to the one found in the Host of Lanciano and in the Holy Shroud of Turin."